

Strategic Highway Corridors

Mobility and Connectivity

Economic Prosperity

Environmental Stewardship



Mobility

The ability to move unimpeded, safely, and efficiently using a reliable transportation system (doesn't necessarily correlate with traffic volumes)





Mobility

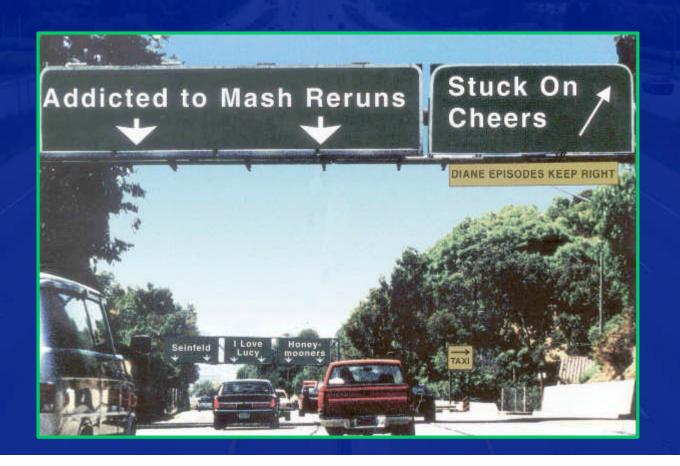






Connectivity

The ability to travel to desired destinations (Activity Centers)





Foster Economic Prosperity

The ability to move people and goods efficiently making for a more competitive business climate, while providing a good quality of life for those employed



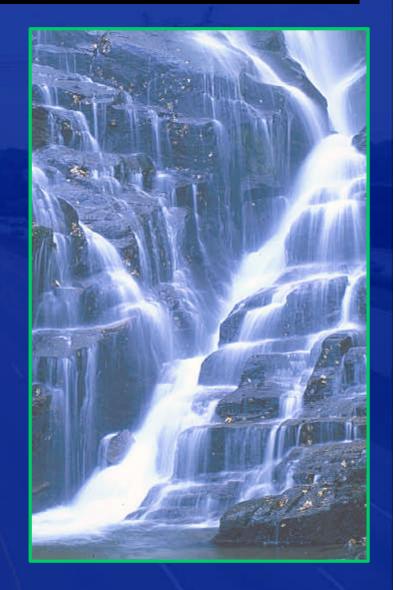


Foster Economic Prosperity



Environmental Stewardship

Striving to preserve and enhance our natural and cultural resources by maximizing the use of the existing transportation infrastructure with the support of compatible land uses





Strategic Highway Corridors??

"A set of <u>Existing</u> Highways Vital to Moving People and Goods within and just outside North Carolina"



Goals

Create a Network of High-Speed, Safe, and Reliable Highways

- > Develop an Up Front Vision for each Corridor
- >Affect Long-Term Decision Making
 - Funding
 - Project Planning & Design
 - Driveway Permits & Traffic Signals
 - Local Land Use









Transportation Benefits of SHC

- **▶** Safer and more Reliable Transportation System
- **≻**Higher Capacity
- >More Efficient Movement of Vehicles

Access Management is a Critical Tool to help Achieve these Goals

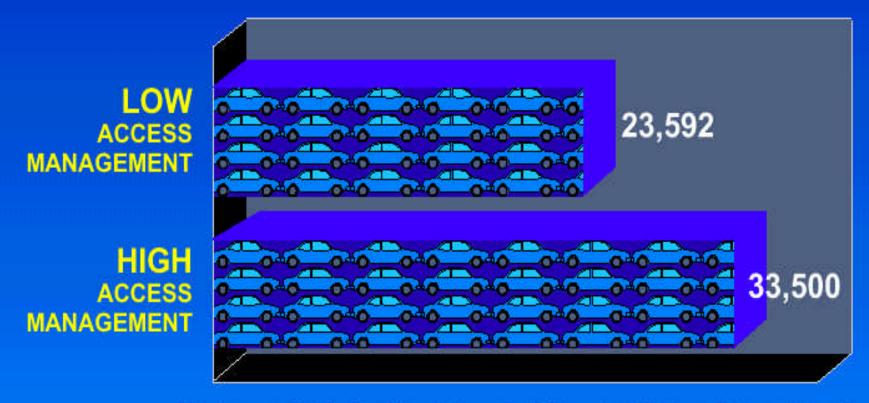




INCREASED CAPACITY



Access Management gives us room for almost 10,000 more vehicles a day*



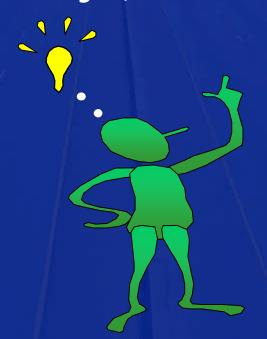
Maximum Daily Traffic at Level of Service "D" on 4-Lane Road

* Source: FDOT and 1985 Highway Capacity Manual

Corridor Selection

How Did We Identify these Roads (Corridors)?

- **≻Objective Criteria**
- > Public Involvement (Fall/Winter 2003/2004)
- >Level of Subjectivity (Common Sense)





Objective Criteria

- Mobility: Significant Traffic Volumes and <u>Vital</u> to the State's and/or Region's Interest
- Connectivity: Provides a Connection between Activity Centers
- Interstate Connectivity: Provides a Connection between Existing and/or Planned Interstates
- Interstate Reliever: Currently Serves or has Potential to Serve as a <u>Reliever Route to an</u> <u>Existing Interstate Facility</u>



Other Factors

- > Hurricane Evacuation Route
- > Cited in Prominent Report (ex. Rural Prosperity Task Force Report)
- ➤ Part of a National, Statewide, Economic, or Military Highway System (ex. NHS or STRAHNET)





Activity Centers Include:

> 17 MPOs





Activity Centers Include:

- > 17 MPOs
- > Other Cities with at least 20,000 people



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- > 17 MPOs
- > Other Cities with at least 20,000 people
- ➤ Major Military Bases (7)





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➤ Major Airports (6), Seaports (2), Intermodal Terminals (3)





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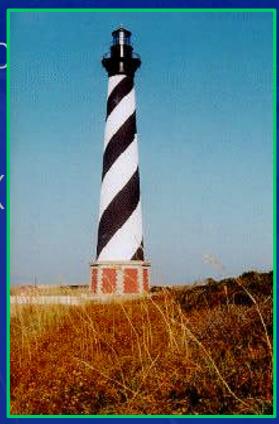
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> UNC System Universities (16)



Activity Centers Include:

- > 17 MPOs
- > Other Cities with at least 20,0
- Major Military Bases (5)
- Major Airports (6), Seaports (Terminals (3)
- ➤ UNC System Universities (16)
- ➤ Major Tourist Destinations

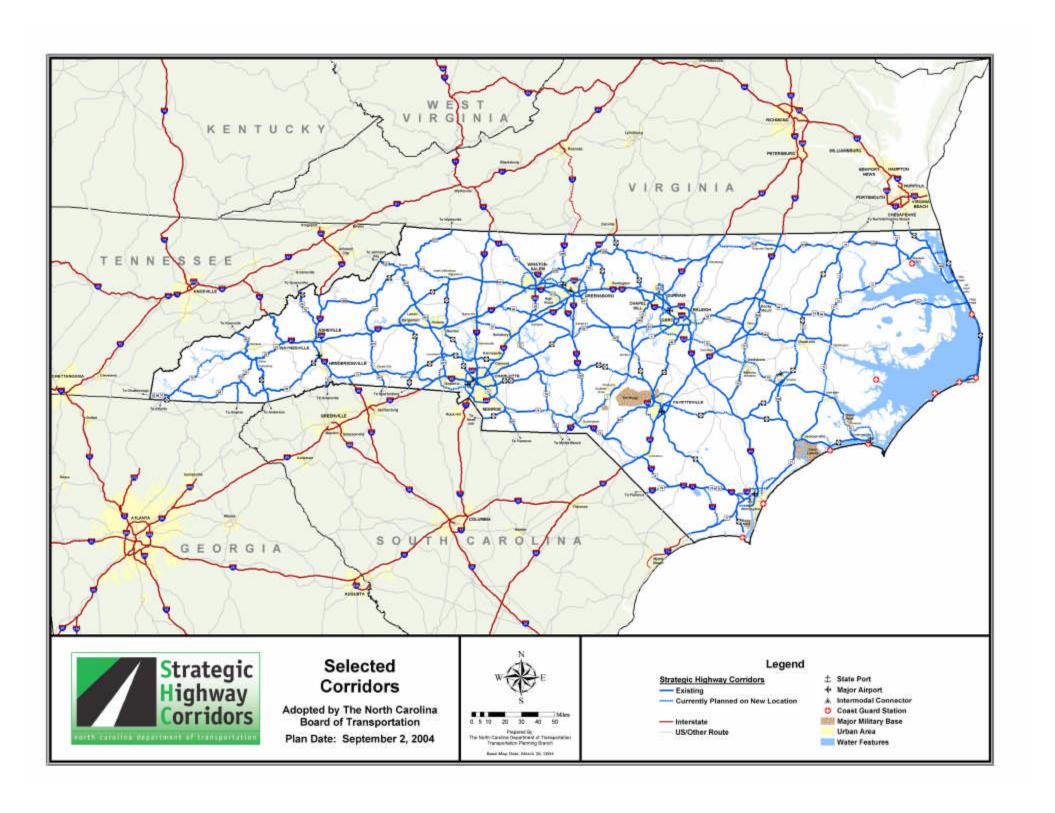




Activity Centers Include:

- > 17 MPOs
- > Other Cities with at least 20,000 people
- ➤ Major Military Bases (5)
- ➤ Major Airports (6), Seaports (2), Intermodal Terminals (3)
- ➤ UNC System Universities (16)
- Major Tourist Destinations
- > Trauma Centers (11)





Facility Types

Developed Definitions of Different Facility Types for all Strategic Highway Corridors

Primarily Based on Level of Access, Median, Driveways, and Traffic Signals

- >Freeways
- > Expressways
- > Boulevards
- >Thoroughfares



Freeways



- 55mph or Greater
- Minimum 4 Lanes with Median
- Access only Provided at Interchanges
- All Cross Streets are Grade-Separated
- No Traffic Signals
- No Driveways
- Examples: I-40, I-95, US 264
 between Wilson and Greenville, US
 70 between Dover and New Bern



Expressways



- Speed Limit: 45 to 60 mph
- Minimum 4 Lanes with Median
- Access at Interchanges for Major Cross Streets, At-Grade Intersections for Minor Cross Streets
- No Traffic Signals
- Limited/No Driveway Access Encouraged
- Median breaks for U-turns or Leftovers
- Use of Accel. & Decel. Lanes
- Examples: US 70 around Goldsboro,
 US 117 north of I-40, US 220 in
 Rockingham County

Boulevards





- Speed Limit: 30 mph to 55 mph
- Minimum 2 Lanes with Median
- At-Grade Access at Major and Minor Cross Streets
- Traffic Signals Allowed
- Limited Driveways Allowed but Access may be Restricted to Right-in/Right-out; Major Driveways may be Allowed Full Movements
- Some Mid-block U-turns
- Examples: US 70 between Clayton and Goldsboro, US 19/23 (Patton Ave) in Asheville, NC 55 (Holly Springs Bypass)

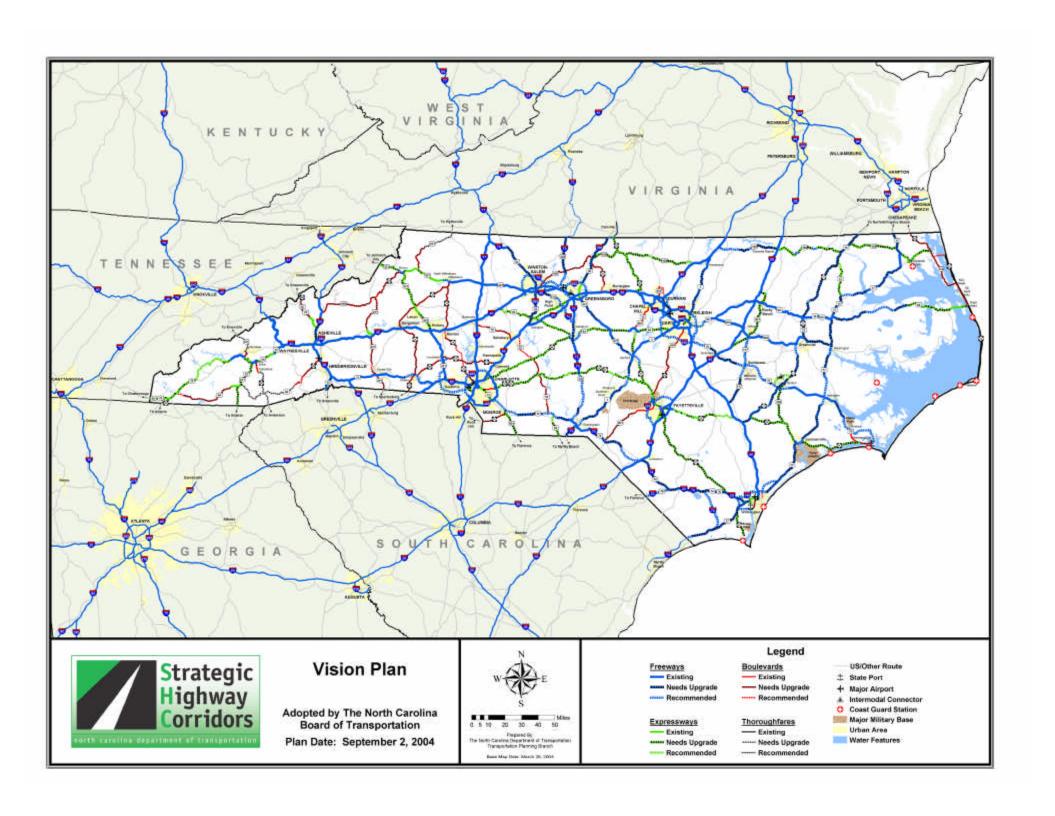
Thoroughfares

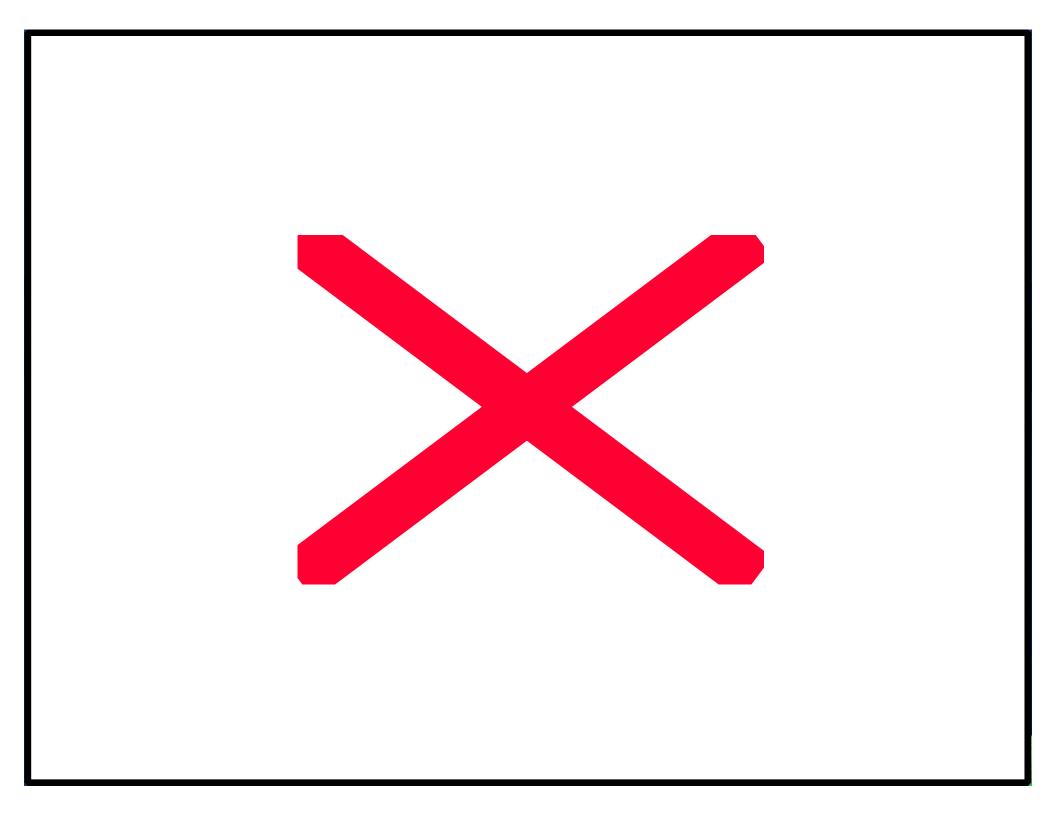


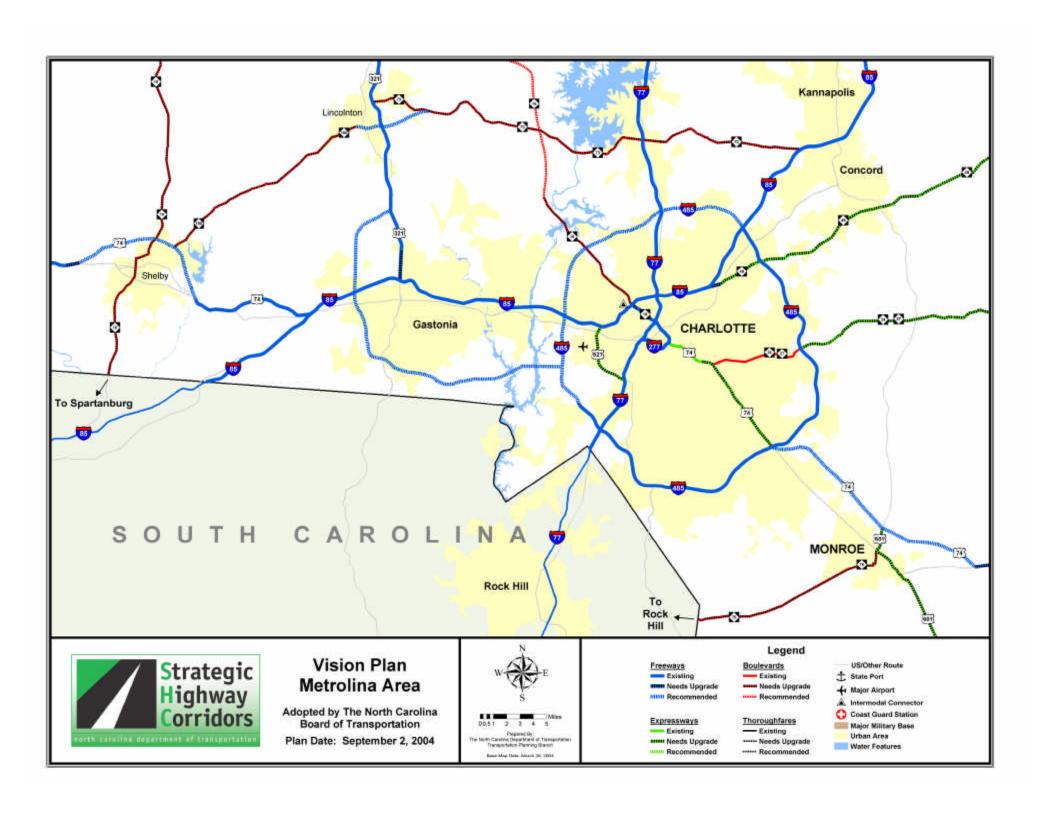


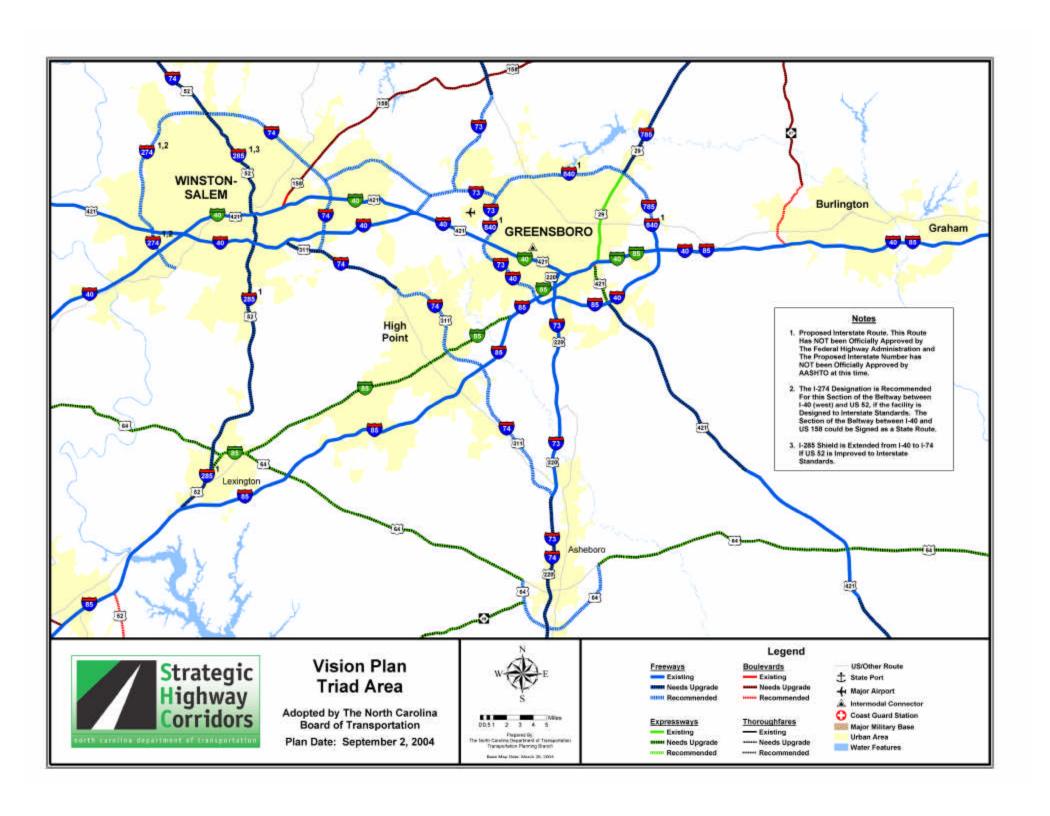
- Speed Limit: 25 to 55 mph
- Minimum 2 Lanes; No Median
- Uncontrolled Access onto facility
- Traffic Signals Allowed
- Driveways with Full Movements
- Continuous Left Turn Lanes optional
- 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 Lane Facilities
- Examples: US 258 north of US 70, US 17 between New Bern and Washington, US 13 (Berkeley Blvd) in Goldsboro, US 158 East of Elizabeth City, US 441 south of Dillsboro

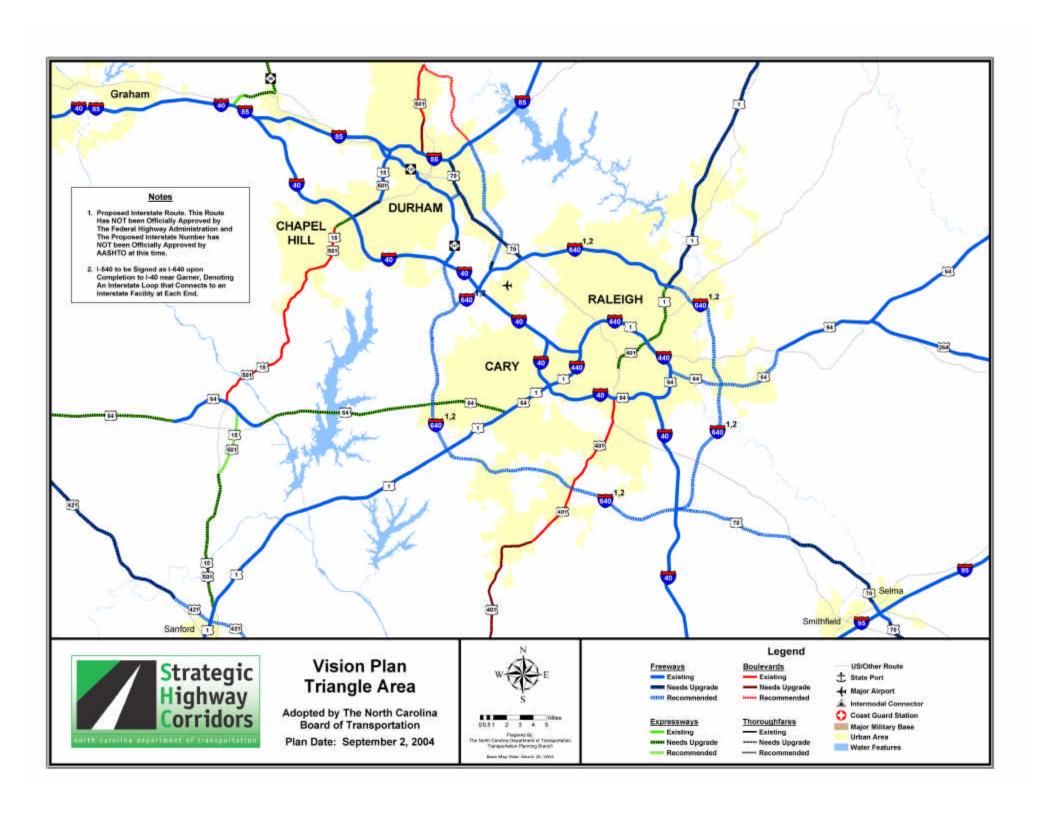


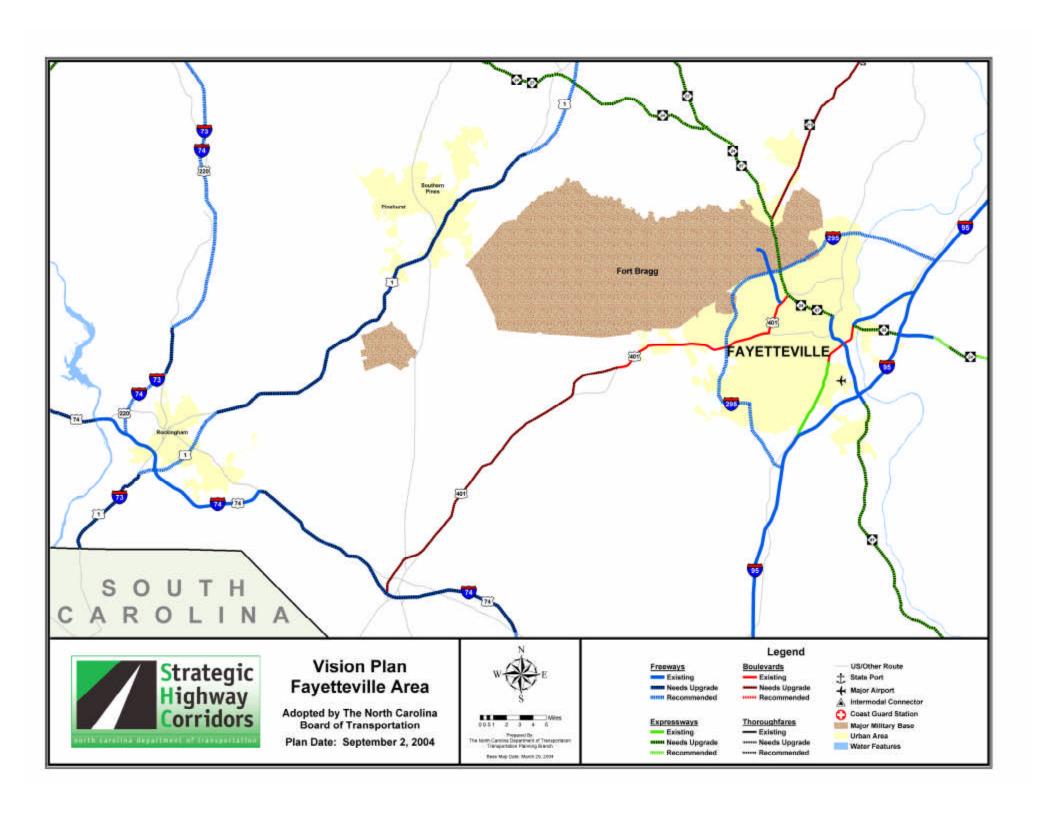


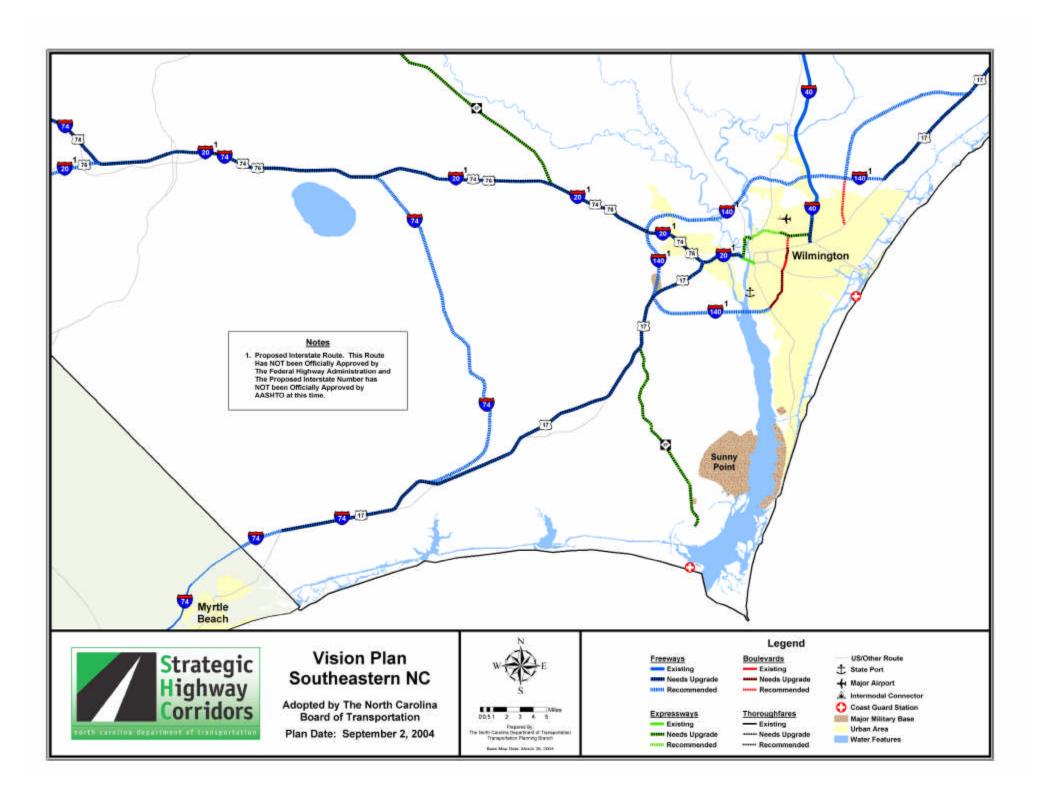












SHC Facts

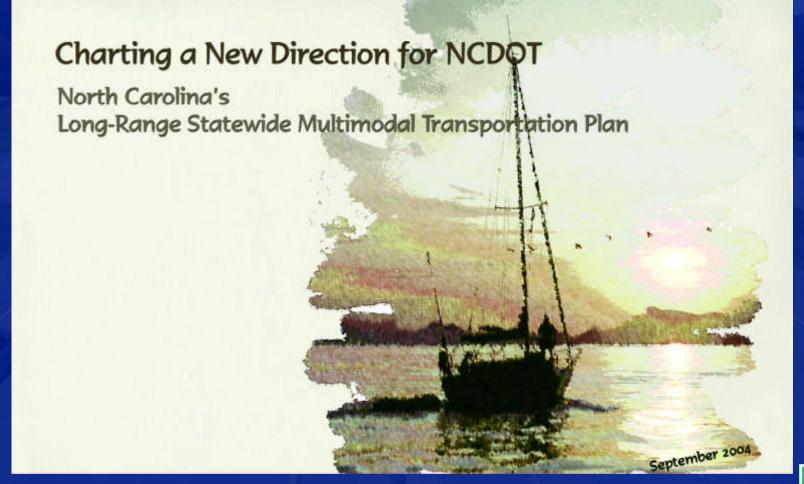
- ➤ Total Miles: 5,378
- > Total Miles of Proposed Freeways: 3,149
- > Total Miles of Proposed Expressways: 1,189
- > Total Miles of Proposed Boulevards: 839
- > Total Miles of Proposed Thoroughfares: 201

Strategic Highway Corridors account for 7% of the State's Highway System, yet carry 45% of the Traffic!



SHC Adoption

BOT Adopted SHC Concept as part of new Statewide Transportation Plan in Sept. 2004





Tri-Agency Policy Statement

Signed by DOC, DENR, & DOT in Dec. 2004



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POLICY

It is the policy of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), in purmership with the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to recognise and further study a set of Strategic Highway Corridors. These Corridors, as identified and described in the Strategic Highway Corridon Concept Report, articulate a new planning focus for North Carolina. They represent a tool to enhance the mobility function of critical highway facilities and provide an opportunity for each Agency to proactively partner with stakeholders and the public to consider long-term vision, consistency in decision-making, land use partnerships, and overarching design and operational improvements.

The Strategic Highway Corridors concept represents the first major implementation step to be advanced under the update of North Carolina's Long-Range Statewide Mahimodal Transportation Plan. Consistent with the Plan's 25-year investment direction, Strategic Highway Corridon recognizes the need to improve and maximize the use of a distinct set of existing highways. These Corridors are critical to statewide mobility and connectivity and promote a vision of modern, efficient transportation supportive of economic apportunities and environmental excellence

Adopted by the North Carolina Board of Transportation September 2, 2004

PURPOSE

Promote statewide economic prosperity and support the department's environmental stewardship goals

Preserve North Carolina's taxpayer investment in critical highway corridors

Enhance major corridor mobility within and to destinations just outside North Carolina

Enhance connectivity of intrastate and intenstate travel

Partury with stakeholders and all vested Agencies to create an up front vision for each Corridor

Identify a desired facility type for each Corridor as Freeway, Expressway, Boalevard, or Thoroughfare

Influence Systems Planning, Funding, Project Planning, Design, Access Management, and Local Land Use decisions along Corridors to achieve broader goals

















Implementation

Multi-Agency Partnership Focus Areas

- **Education**
- ➤ Project-Level Decisions
- ➤ Systems-Level Analysis and Studies
- >Land Use Decisions
- ➤ Corridor Protection



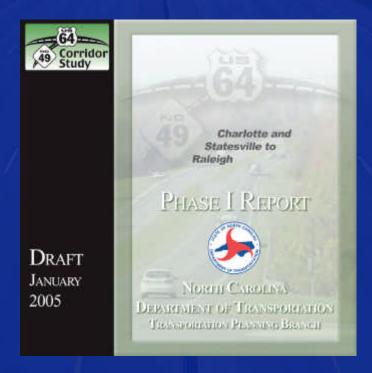
Education

- ➤ Collectively Develop Outreach Plan
- **≻**Continuous
- >Sensitive to unique cultures of all partners



Long-Range Planning

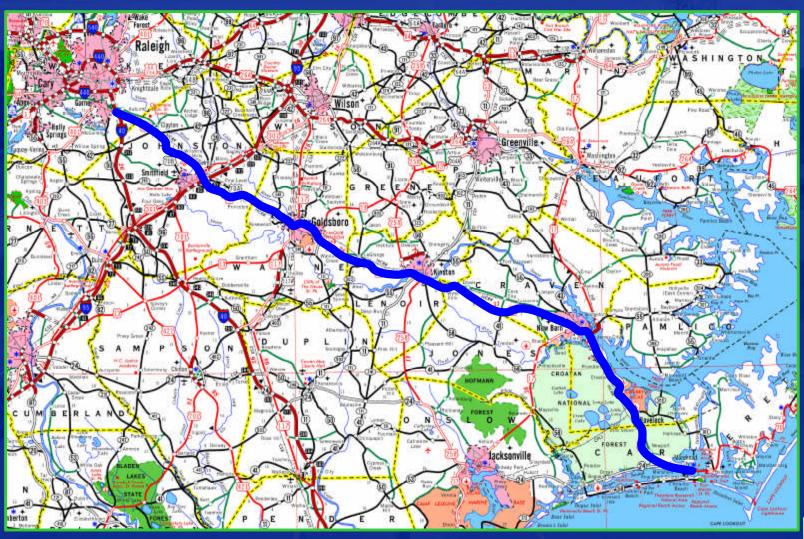
- ➤ Develop/Define Corridor Studies
- ➤ Partners should be involved from Beginning
- >Study Outcomes to Future Projects





Corridor Studies

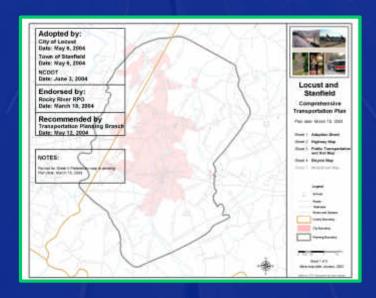
A "Master Plan" for the Entire Corridor





Relationship to CTP

- ➤ Think of SHC Vision Plan as Highway Element of CTP for the State
- ➤ Highway Element of Local CTP should include an Agreed upon Solution for Achieving the Vision along SHCs in the Area





Project Planning and Design

- ➤ Support Goals of SHC concept
- ➤ Purpose & Need includes importance of the Highway as a Strategic Highway Corridor
- > Alternatives Analysis includes Proposed Vision



Project-Level Decisions

Incorporate SHC Vision into Planning and Design Processes (TIP Projects, Transportation Plans)

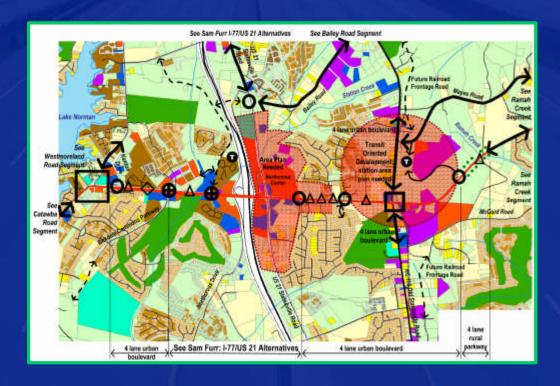
Ex: If Project Involves Connection of 2 Strategic Highway Corridors, Consider Higher-Speed Interchange Designs





Land Use

- ➤ Consistent and Compatible Decisions
- ► Indirect and Cumulative Impacts Analysis
- ➤ State and Local Agreements





Corridor Protection

- ➤ Needed to Help Achieve Corridor Vision
- ➤ Develop Tools, Techniques, & Strategies



Corridor Access

➤ Closer inspection of Driveway Permits

➤ Closer inspection of Traffic Signals (Look for

Alternative Solutions)









Current Activities (TIP)

SHC Projects are noted in Final 2006-12 TIP

Reviewing TIP Projects to see how to best achieve the SHC Vision (193 projects). Includes Examining:

- Interchange Configurations
- Control of Access
- Medians/Crossover Movements
- Traffic Signals
- Driveways





Current Activities

- ➤ Held SHC Summit on April 20th to discuss SHC Concept with Partners
- **▶** Beginning Education Process
- > Just Completed US 64/NC 49 Corridor Study
- > Finalizing US 17 Corridor Study
- > Finalizing SHC Concept Development Report



Q & A

Q: Will this Concept affect How Projects are Prioritized?

A: No. The Concept is Primarily a Tool to make Good and Consistent Decisions along these Corridors



The Future?





The Future?

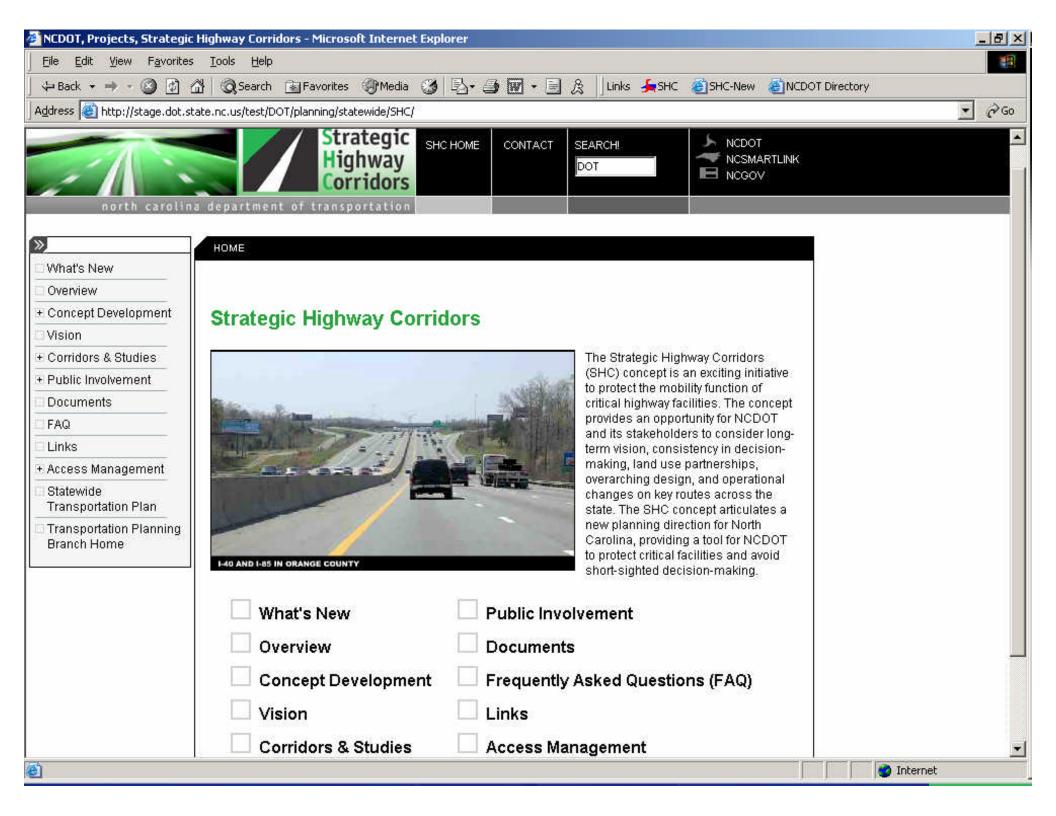


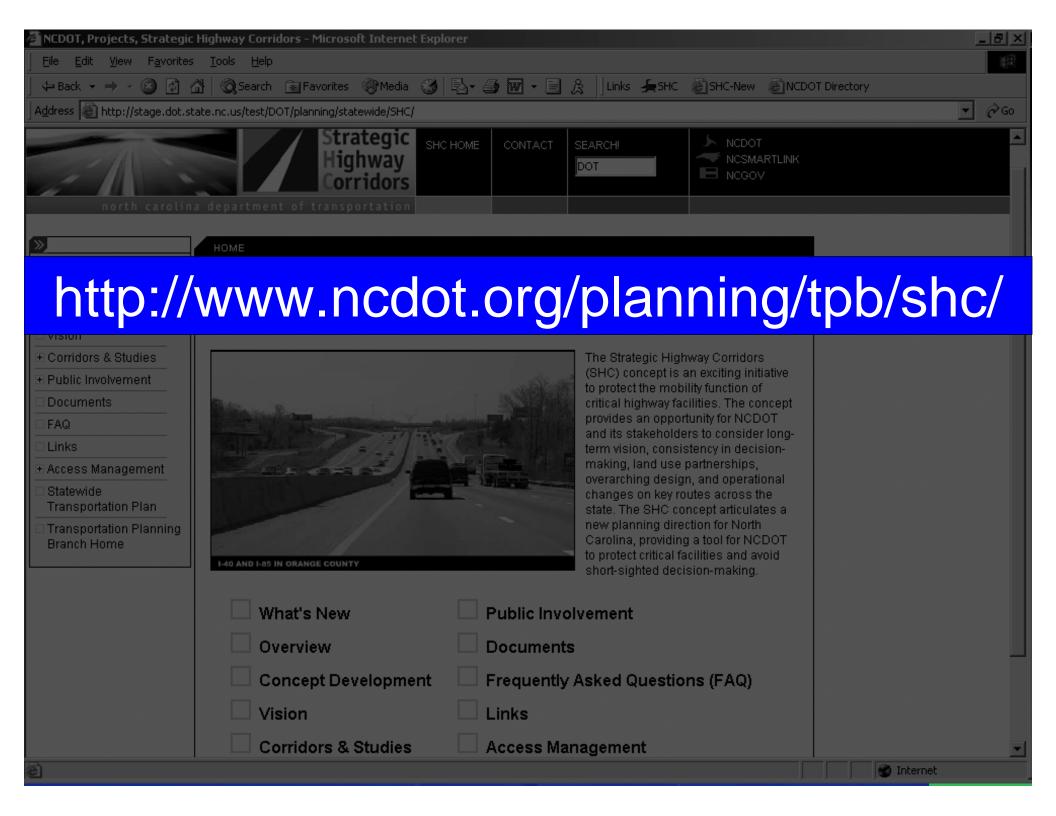


The Future?









Questions?

